

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicants' attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and remarks.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kinzer et al. (Kinzer), U.S. Patent No. 5,338,693 in view of Wang et al (Wang), U.S. Patent No. 4,376,672. Reconsideration is requested.

It has been asserted that Kinzer "does not disclose that the device is capable of resisting single event gate rupture due to single event effect. However, the device would have the recited property because it is the same device disclosed by applicant to exhibit such a property. Furthermore, no particular amount of 'resistance' is recited".

It should be noted that damage due to total radiation dose and single event effect cause an undesirable threshold voltage shift. A device according to the present invention includes a gate oxide that is capable of withstanding a shift in threshold voltage to -5V.

Claim 1, therefore, has been amended to call for a gate oxide that is "capable of withstanding damage due to total radiation dose and capable of withstanding damage due to single event effect that may cause a threshold voltage shift to -5 volts."

The amendment is based on specification page 16, line 25 to page 17, line 2, which discloses that an example of a device according to the present invention did not suffer a threshold voltage shift to -5V due to total radiation dose of up to 300K, and specification at page 17, lines 22-25, which discloses that an example of a device according to the present invention did not suffer a threshold voltage shift to -5V as a result of exposure to a single event effect (SEE). Neither Kinzer nor Wang teaches or suggests a gate oxide that can withstand damage due to total radiation dose and SEE which may cause a threshold voltage shift to -5 volts. Thus, claim 1 should not be deemed obvious over the combination of Kinzer and Wang. Reconsideration is requested.

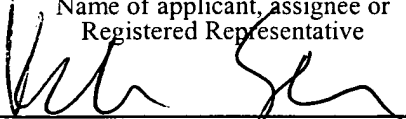
Each of the remaining claims depends from claim 1 and thus includes the limitations thereof as well as other limitations which in combination with those of claim 1 are not shown or suggested by the art of record. Reconsideration is requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

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